

Connecticut Project Helper

**Resources for Creating a Great Connecticut
Project From the Connecticut Colonial Robin
and ConneCT Kids!**



Connecticut State Symbols
Famous Connecticut People
Connecticut Information and Facts
Famous Connecticut Places
Connecticut Outline Map
Do-it-Yourself Connecticut Flag
Six Connecticut Project Ideas
Connecticut Postcard and more....

What Makes a Great Connecticut Project?

You! You and your ability to show how much you have learned about Connecticut.

So, the most important part of your project will not be found in this booklet. But, we can help to give you ideas, resources, facts, and information that would be hard for you to find.

Some students are good at drawing and art, some students are good at writing reports, and some students are good at crafts and other skills. But that part of the project will be only the beginning.

A great Connecticut Project will be the one where you have become a Connecticut expert to the best of your abilities.

Every State in the United States has a special character that comes from a unique blend of land, people, climate, location, history, industry, government, economy and culture. A great Connecticut Project will be the one where you can answer the question: "What makes Connecticut special?"

In addition to this booklet, you should look for Connecticut information in your school library or town library. There are many online resources that can be found by doing internet searches. The more you find, the easier it will be to put together that Great Connecticut Project!

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Connecticut Project Resources and How You Can Use Them



Hi! I am the Colonial Robin, and I want to help you with your Connecticut Project. I have assembled some resources in this booklet that you can use for your project. Some are pictures and some are lists of facts. I have included an outline map of Connecticut that you can fill in with names of cities and towns, rivers and lakes, roads or locations where historical events occurred. You can also make your own Connecticut Flag to include in your project. All of the resources are meant to be a starting point for your own imagination and creativity. You will still need to do a lot of reading about Connecticut to find other resources.

Internet Resources (subject to change)

State of Connecticut Website: <http://www.ct.gov>

ConneCT Kids Website: <http://www.kids.ct.gov/kids/site/default.asp>

Connecticut Tourism Website: <http://www.ctvisit.com/>

Who Can Use This Book and How

This book is intended for use by students when they are working on Connecticut Projects assigned in school. Students may use the pictures and descriptions in their projects without permission, though they should put the descriptions in their own words. All other uses of this book are prohibited under United State copyright laws without the written permission of the ConneCT Kids Committee. For information or to obtain additional copies, please contact the ConneCT Kids Committee at connect.kids@ct.gov.

Selected Connecticut State Symbols

The State Capitol



Overlooking Hartford's 41 acre Bushnell Memorial Park, the Connecticut State Capitol first opened for the General Assembly in January, 1879. Initial work on the project had begun eight years before in 1871 when the legislature established a special commission and appropriated funds for construction of a new statehouse. The site was contributed by the city of Hartford, and the commission retained James G. Batterson to build the Capitol from plans designed by noted architect Richard M. Upjohn.

Constructed of New England marble and granite and crowned by a gold leaf dome, the Capitol was built at a cost of \$2,532,524.43 and has an estimated replacement value of more than \$200,000,000.

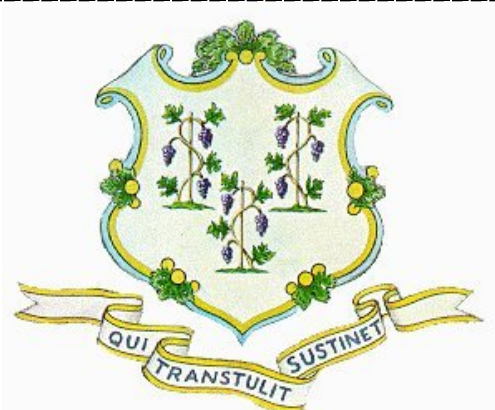
The State Tree

Deep-rooted in the historic tradition of Connecticut, the Charter Oak is one of the most colorful and significant symbols of the spiritual strength and love of freedom which inspired our Colonial forebears in their militant resistance to tyranny. This venerable giant of the forest, over half a century old when it hid the treasured Charter in 1687, finally fell during a great storm on August 21, 1856.

Two English kings, a royal agent, a colonial hero and a candle-lit room are the figures and backdrop in one of the most thrilling chapters of America's legend of liberty. The refusal of our early Connecticut leaders to give up the Charter, despite royal order and the threat of arms, marked one of the greatest episodes of determined courage in our history.



The Armorial Bearings



On March 24, 1931, the General Assembly adopted a design for the official Arms of the State, which it ordered drawn and filed with the Secretary of the State.

The official description of the Arms calls for: A shield of rococo design of white field, having in the center three grape vines, supported and bearing fruit. Below the shield shall be a white streamer, cleft at each end, bordered with two fine lines, and upon the streamer shall be in solid letters of medium bold Gothic the motto: "**QUI TRANSLULIT SUSTINET**" (He Who Transplanted Still Sustains)

The State Flower

Designated as the State Flower by the General Assembly in 1907, the **Mountain Laurel** is perhaps the most beautiful of native American shrubs. Its fragrance and the massed richness of its white and pink blossoms so vividly contrast with the darker colors of the forests and the fields that they have continually attracted the attention of travelers since the earliest days of our colonization. First mentioned in John Smith's "General History," in 1624 specimens were sent to Linnaeus, the famous botanist, by the Swedish explorer Peter Kalm in 1750.

Linnaeus gave it the name of *Kalmia latifolia*, honoring the name his correspondent and at the same time describing the "wide-leafed" characteristic of the plant. In addition to being called the "Mountain Laurel," the plant has also been spoken of as "Calico Bush" and "Spoonwood."



Selected Connecticut State Symbols



The State Bird

The American Robin was adopted as the official State Bird by the General Assembly in 1943. The name Robin is applied to a number of familiar birds, but in North America it is the migratory thrush. (*Turdus migratorius*.)

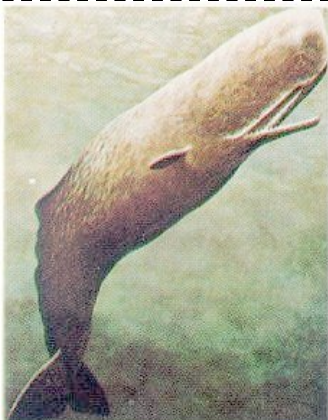
Our Robin, a true thrush, is a migratory bird with a reddish brown or tawny breast and a loud cheery song. It was first called Robin by the early colonists, in remembrance of the beloved English bird. Despite the protests of some naturalists, we still retain that traditional name.

Familiar in the summertime throughout North America, the American Robin is seen from Alaska to Virginia. Most people do not know that many Robins spend the entire winter in New England. They roost among the evergreens in the swamps where they feed on winter berries.

The State Insect

The European "praying" mantis (family: Mantidae, order: Orthoptera) officially became the State Insect on October 1, 1977. The name "mantis" (derived from the Greek word for "prophet" or "diviner") appropriately described the mantis' distinctive habit of standing motionless on four hind legs, with the two highly specialized forelegs raised in an attitude of meditation.

Harmless to humans, and averaging 2-2 1/2 inches in length, this small green or brown insect feeds on aphids, flies, grasshoppers, small caterpillars and moths. Although probably not a significant factor in biological control, mantis are beneficial insects for farmers and are therefore symbolic reminders of the importance of the natural environment to human and biological survival.



The State Animal

The Sperm Whale was designated as the state animal by the General Assembly in 1975. It was selected because of its specific contribution to the state's history and because of its present-day plight as an endangered species.

The Sperm Whale is the largest of the toothed whales, growing up to 60 feet in length and capable of diving over 3,000 feet in search of the squid and cuttlefish on which it feeds. The sperm whale's brain is the largest of any creature that ever existed on earth. During the 1800's Connecticut ranked second only to Massachusetts in the American whaling industry. The sperm whale was the species most sought after by Connecticut whalers circling the globe on ships out of New London, Mystic and other Connecticut ports to bring back needed oil for lamps and other products.

The State Fish

The American Shad was designated as the state fish by the General Assembly in 2003. It was selected because: 1) it is a native Connecticut fish; 2) it has great historical significance in that it provided food for Native Americans and colonists; 3) it was, and continues to be, of great commercial value to the State; and 4) because the hardiness of this migratory fish reflects the true Connecticut spirit as stated in our motto "Qui Transtulit Sustinet" (He Who Transplanted Still Sustains).

The American Shad is a member of the herring family which also includes alewives. It is an anadromous species, meaning that it lives most of its life in the ocean, but returns yearly to specific freshwater streams to spawn. In Connecticut, shad enter the Connecticut River from April to June, depending on the river water temperature.



Selected Connecticut State Symbols



The State Ship

Built by Connecticut craftsmen and women, USS Nautilus was the world's first nuclear powered submarine and logged more than 500,000 nautical miles during her distinguished 25 year career.

The USS Nautilus, named Connecticut's State Ship by the 1983 General Assembly, has been designated a National Historic Landmark and is permanently berthed next to the Submarine Force Library and Museum at Goss Cove in Groton.

The State Flagship

Freedom Schooner *Amistad*--a recreation of the 19th century vessel--was constructed at Connecticut's Mystic Seaport and set sail in 2000 as both a floating classroom and monument. From her homeport at Long Wharf Pier in New Haven, she has taken the story of the *Amistad* Incident of 1839--and its lessons of leadership, perseverance, cooperation, justice, and freedom--to both national and international communities.

Owned and operated by the nonprofit educational organization AMISTAD America, Inc., Freedom Schooner *Amistad*, a proud symbol of courage and moral strength, was designated the State Flagship and Tall Ship Ambassador by the General Assembly in 2003.



The State Aircraft

In a May 17, 2005 ceremony in the State Capitol's historic Hall of the Flags, Governor M. Jodi Rell signed into law a bill that makes the World War II fighter plane, the F4U Corsair, the official aircraft of the State of Connecticut.

One of the best fighter-bomber aircraft built during World War II, the F4U was also used during the Korean Conflict.

Some 12,500 Corsairs were built between 1938 and 1945. The aircraft was designed and built in Connecticut by workers at Hamilton Standard, Pratt and Whitney, United Aircraft, and Vought-Sikorsky.



The State Fossil

The Connecticut Valley is the world's foremost dinosaur track locality. Many different types of fossil track impressions have been found in the Valley's sandstone of the early Jurassic period (200 million years ago). Eubrontes, a large three toed track, was designated the State Fossil in 1991. Although no skeletal remains of the specific track making dinosaur have been found, the shape, size, and stride of the Eubrontes indicate that the animal was closely related to the Western genus *Dilophosaurus*.

Two thousand Eubrontes tracks were discovered on a single layer of rock in Rocky Hill in 1966 and subsequently Dinosaur State Park was created for their preservation and interpretation. This Registered Natural Landmark site receives visitors from throughout the world.



Selected Connecticut State Symbols

The State Shellfish



The Eastern oyster was designated as the State Shellfish by the General Assembly in 1989. The oyster, which is a bivalve mollusk, thrives naturally in Connecticut's tidal rivers and coastal embayments and is cultivated by the oyster industry in the waters of the Long Island Sound.

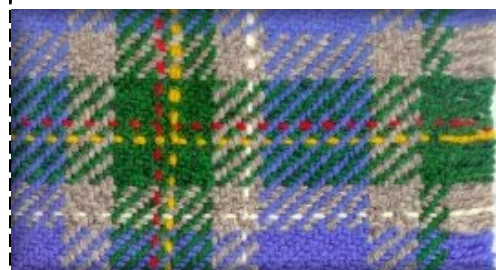
Oysters were consumed in great quantities by Connecticut's native American inhabitants, and early European settlers found oysters to be a staple and reliable food source. The first colonial laws regulating the taking of oysters in Connecticut appeared in the early 1700's.

Oyster farming developed into a major industry in the State by the late 19th century. During the 1890's, Connecticut held the distinction of having the largest fleet of oyster steamers in the world.

The State Tartan

Connecticut General Assembly in 1995 as the official tartan of the state: A plaid, with large blue stripes representing Long Island Sound, large green stripes representing forest, medium gray stripes representing granite, red and yellow pin stripes representing autumn leaves and white pin stripes representing snow.

The white pin stripes shall be located within every other gray stripe and shall be offset from the center. The thread ratio for the tartan shall be: Blue-10, gray-2, white-1, gray-5, green-8, yellow-1, green-2, red-1, green-8, gray-8 and blue-10.



Music



The State Song

The historical origins of this song are unclear as there were many versions, some dating as far back as 15th century Holland. It is known that during the Revolutionary War, the British troops used the song to make fun of the American colonists. The term "Macaroni" refers to a fancy, overdressed style of Italian clothing popular at the time. The American colonists, proud to be called "Yankees," adopted the song as their own anthem.

Words -

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a pony,
Stuck a feather in his hat,
And called it macaroni.

Chorus -

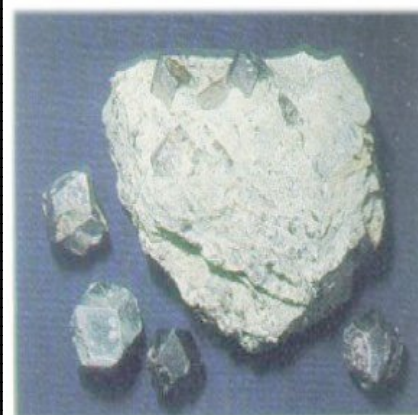
Yankee Doodle keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
And with the folks be handy.

The State Mineral

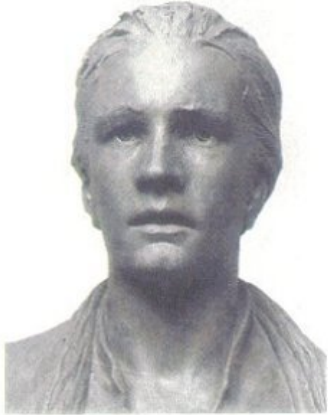
Connecticut is one of the finest sources in the world of the almandine garnet, named the state mineral by the 1977 General Assembly. An ancient gem, it was named "garnata" in the 13th century by Albertus Magnus and was known as the "Carbuncle" in its likeness to a small, red hot coal.

The garnets are actually a group of similar minerals, complex silicates of the same atomic structure, but differing in chemical composition. They vary in color from pale to dark tints, including the deep violet-red of the almandine garnet.

This mineral's hardness, 7 on the Mohs scale, has made the garnet useful as an abrasive, resulting in an important industry throughout Connecticut's history. It contributed to this development by providing the base for grinding wheels, saws, and the better cutting quality of garnet paper, a variety of sandpaper.



Twelve Famous Connecticut People



Nathan Hale - State Hero

On October 1, 1985, by an act of the General Assembly and the efforts of the Nathan Hale Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Nathan Hale officially became Connecticut's State Hero.

Born in Coventry, and educated at Yale University, Hale served as a school master until he was commissioned as a captain in the Continental Army in 1775. In September of 1776, at the request of General George Washington for a volunteer, Hale crossed enemy lines to gather information as to the strength and plans of the British Army. Caught while returning, he was hanged as a spy on September 22, 1776, without the benefit of a trial.

The Patriot's dedication to our country is enshrined in the immortal words "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." By every action of his short life, Hale exemplified the ideals of patriotism.

Prudence Crandall - State Heroine

On October 1, 1995, by an act of the General Assembly, Prudence Crandall became Connecticut's State Heroine.

In 1833, Prudence Crandall established the first academy for African-American women in New England. During its 18 months of operation, Crandall and her students faced hardships and violence. She was placed on trial twice for breaking a law specifically designed to prevent the school from operating. In the fall of 1834, although the charges against her were dismissed, the school was closed.

Prudence Crandall demonstrated great courage and moral strength by taking a stand against prejudice. In 1886 the legislature honored her with an annual pension of \$400.00.

The Prudence Crandall House is a National Historic Landmark located at the intersection of 14 and 169 in Canterbury. It is operated by the Connecticut Historical Commission



Charles Ives - State Composer

Charles Edward Ives (1874-1954) was born at the family home in Danbury, and was taught the basics of harmony, counterpoint and fugue by his father George, who was a famous Civil War bandmaster. He entered Yale University in 1894 and studied with Horatio Parker, a composer and professor of composition.

In 1908, he married Harmony Twitchell and opened what became a large and successful insurance agency in New York City, but continued to live and compose music in Danbury. His works include symphonies, tone poems and nearly 200 songs. Ives was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1947 for his Third Symphony and was designated the State Composer by the General Assembly in 1991.

General Israel Putnam

He lived most of his life in Connecticut as a farmer. He joined Rogers' Rangers in 1755 rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel of militia.

"On April 20th 1775, Putnam received news of the battle at Lexington. The energetic patriot mounted a horse at the stable that he might himself spread the alarm.

After Lexington and Concord, Putnam hastened to Boston and became colonel of a Connecticut regiment and brigadier of Connecticut militia. He was one of the two principal commanders at the battle of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill, where he gave the famous order "**Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes.**" Congress appointed him as one of the original major generals of the Continental Army within days of the battle. He was felled by a paralytic stroke in 1779.



Twelve Famous Connecticut People



Phineas Taylor Barnum (July 5, 1810 – April 7, 1891)

P. T. Barnum was an American showman who is best remembered for his entertaining hoaxes and for founding the circus that eventually became the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Barnum was born in Bethel, Connecticut, one of ten children. Barnum was very adept at arithmetic, but hated physical work. Barnum started as a store-keeper, and he learned the arts of haggling, striking a hard bargain, and using deception to make a sale.

In addition to the circus and his museum, another of Barnum's innovations was the national competition. He organized flower shows, beauty contests, dog shows, poultry contests, but the most popular were the baby contests. Barnum died April 7, 1891 and was buried in Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut. A statue in his honor was erected in 1893 at Seaside Park, by the water in Bridgeport.

Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe (June 14, 1811 – July 1, 1896)

Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe was an American abolitionist and novelist, whose *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) attacked the cruelty of slavery; it reached millions as a novel and play, and became influential, even in Britain. It made the political issues of the 1850s regarding slavery real to millions, energizing anti-slavery forces in the American North. It angered and embittered the South. The impact is summed up in a commonly quoted statement attributed to Abraham Lincoln. When he met Stowe, it is claimed that he said, "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war!"

During her life, she wrote poems, travel books, biographical sketches, and children's books, as well as adult novels. She met and corresponded with people as varied as Lady Byron, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and George Eliot. She died at the age of 85, in Hartford Connecticut.



Samuel Colt (July 19, 1814 – January 10, 1862)

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Samuel Colt was an American inventor and industrialist. He was the founder of the Colt's Patent Fire-Arms Manufacturing Company (now known as Colt's Manufacturing Company), and is widely credited with popularizing the revolver gun.

Colt would eventually purchase a large tract of land beside the Connecticut River, where he built a large factory (Colt Armory), manor (Armsmear), and workman housing. He established a ten-hour day for employees, installed washing stations in the factory, mandated a 1 hour lunch break, and built the Charter Oak Hall, a club for employees to enjoy with games, newspapers, and discussion rooms. In this way he was a progressive employer concerned with his employees well-being.

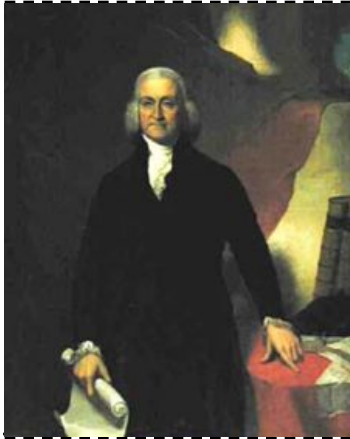
Noah Webster (October 16, 1758 – April 28, 1843)

Noah Webster was an American lexicographer, textbook author, spelling reformer, political writer, word enthusiast, and editor. He has been called the "Father of American Scholarship and Education". His *Blue-backed Speller* books taught five generations of children in the United States how to spell and read, and his name became linked with "dictionary", especially the modern Merriam-Webster dictionary that was first published in 1828 as *An American Dictionary of the English Language*.

Though it now has an honored place in the history of American English, Webster's first dictionary only sold 2,500 copies. He was forced to mortgage his home to bring out a second edition. On May 28, 1843, after revising an appendix to the second edition, and with much of his efforts with the dictionary still unrecognized, Noah Webster died.



Twelve Famous Connecticut People



Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. (October 12, 1710 – August 17, 1785)

First Governor of Connecticut

Jonathan Trumbull was born in Lebanon, Connecticut and was educated at Harvard College. He served as a delegate to the general assembly and became Speaker of the House in 1739. He was appointed a colonel in the Connecticut militia the same year.

From 1766 to 1769, Jonathan Trumbull served as deputy governor of the Colony of Connecticut, becoming governor in 1769. He was a friend and advisor of General Washington during the Revolutionary war and was the only colonial governor to remain in office through that period. During the Revolutionary War, Trumbull dedicated the resources of Connecticut to the fight for independence. His efforts helped earn the nickname for Connecticut as the "Provision State."

Eli Terry Sr. (April 13, 1772 – February 26, 1852)

Born in East Windsor, Connecticut on April 13, 1772, Eli Terry was apprenticed at the age of 14 to clock maker Daniel Burnap. At the age of 21, he opened his own clock shop in Plymouth in 1793. Early clocks were made entirely from wood as iron was expensive and the brass industry had not yet begun. Terry's great contribution to Connecticut industry and the common people was his recognition that the standardization of clock works could result in increased production and lower costs while still manufacturing beautiful clocks that were affordable for most people. Terry later joined with Seth Thomas to produce clocks in a joint venture.

Terry later opened a factory in Thomaston, Connecticut and continued improving his productions methods and perfecting his designs until his death in 1852. It is hard today to imagine a time when only rich people had clocks and to appreciate the effect of Eli Terry's work on our lives. Most of Terry's sons also became clock/lock makers, with Terryville being named after Eli Terry Jr.



Eli Terry Jr. Water Wheel, Terryville, CT



Charles Goodyear (December 29, 1800 – July 1, 1860)

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, the oldest of six children, Charles Goodyear was exposed to both farming and manufacturing as a boy. His father ran a farm but also manufactured buttons in a small shop in Naugatuck where there was convenient water power. At the age of 14 he was sent to Philadelphia to learn the hardware business. Returning to Naugatuck at age 21, he became a partner in his father's button manufacturing business and expanded into manufacturing agricultural tools.

Beginning around 1828, Charles Goodyear became interested in processing natural rubber into useful items that could withstand changes in temperature without becoming either brittle or soft. He tried various treatments and chemical processes, some adversely affecting his health, until 1839 when, as he later claimed, he accidentally placed some natural rubber mixed with sulfur on a hot stove and created vulcanized rubber. Not until 1844 that he was awarded a patent for his invention. He died a poor man largely due to constant patent infringements. In 1898, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company was founded. In 1976, Goodyear was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



Ella Tambussi Grasso (May 10, 1919 – February 5, 1981)

Ella Tambussi Grasso was born Ella Rose Tambussi in Windsor Locks. She attended the St. Mary's School in Windsor Locks and the Chaffee School in Windsor. She earned a BA and MA at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

During the Second World War she served as assistant director of research for the War Manpower Commission of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and became first woman to be elected floor leader. She was elected Secretary of State in 1958, and was reelected in 1962 and 1966. She was first woman chair of the Democratic State Platform Committee, and was a member of the Platform Drafting Committee, 1960.

She was elected as a Democrat to the Ninety-second and Ninety-third Congresses (January 3, 1971-January 3, 1975). She was not a candidate for reelection in 1974 to the Ninety-fourth Congress being elected Governor of Connecticut in 1974 for the four-year term commencing January 1975 and was reelected in 1978, resigning due to a physical disability on December 31, 1980. She resided in Windsor Locks until her death in Hartford. She is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Windsor Locks.



Eight Famous Connecticut Places



Gillette Castle - East Haddam

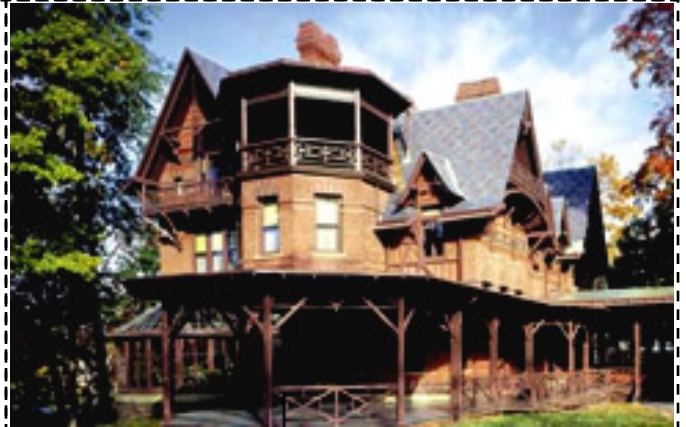
William Gillette was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1853. As a child, he was captivated with the stage and acting pursuits. At age thirteen, he had a small stage built and amused himself by frequently giving puppet shows for his friends. At age twenty, he left home to follow his chosen career. He is most famous for his portrayal of "Sherlock Holmes." Besides his activities as an actor and playwright, Gillette invented many trick stage props and lighting techniques, and often produced and directed the plays in which he appeared. His last performance was at the Bushnell in Hartford in 1936, the year before his death.

Gillette designed the castle and most of its contents personally, periodically checking every phase of their construction. Built of local fieldstone supported by a steel framework, it took twenty men five years (1914-1919), to complete the main structure.

The Mark Twain House - Hartford

Samuel Langhorne Clemens is best known by his pen name - Mark Twain. His major works include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *Life on the Mississippi*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. The Mark Twain House was his home from 1871 to 1891. He moved to Hartford to be closer to his publisher, American Publishing Company. The architectural style of the 19-room house is Victorian Gothic.

The house was built on 3.5 acres of land and designed with seven bedrooms, seven bathrooms, a carriage house, and plant-filled conservatory. Twain loved living in the house, partly because he knew many different authors in his Hartford neighborhood, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Isabella Beecher Hooker. Also, he would stop in to visit his friend, actor William Gillette at Gillette Castle.



West Cornwall Covered Bridge - West Cornwall

The bridge is on Route 128 and passes over the Housatonic River between Cornwall and Sharon. It is a covered timber Town lattice truss, 172 feet in length, built in 1864. The deck consists of two large side beams and a 3/8-inch thick top plate reinforced by 9-inch U-shaped ribs, all welded together. Flood waters in 1955 nearly swept the bridge away.

In 1973 the Connecticut Department of Transportation rehabilitated the bridge by inserting a concealed steel deck to bear the weight of the traffic. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The bridge is one of three remaining covered bridges in Connecticut, a state where hundreds once existed. The other two are Bull's Bridge in Kent, and Comstock Bridge in Colchester-East Hampton.

Mystic Seaport - Mystic

Mystic Seaport is a maritime museum located along the banks of the Mystic River. It is notable both for its collection of sailing ships and boats, and for the re-creation of an entire 19th century seaport, consisting of over 60 original buildings, most of them rare commercial structures, moved to the 37 acre site and restored. In 1941, the museum acquired the Charles W. Morgan, the only surviving wooden sailing whaler. One of the main buildings of the museum is the Preservation Shipyard, where traditional tools and techniques are used to preserve the Museum's collection of historic vessels, including a recreation of the *Amistad*. One intriguing exhibit is a 1/128th scale model of the entire Mystic River area in 1870. A planetarium that helps to show and teach visitors how the stars were used by seamen for navigation.



Eight Famous Connecticut Places



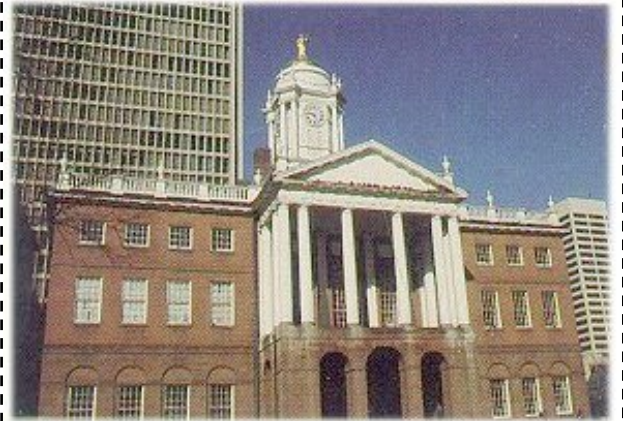
Dinosaur State Park

The Connecticut Valley has a long history of fossil track discoveries. Outstanding specimens uncovered in 19th century brownstone quarries found their way into museums throughout the world. A new chapter in the history of such discoveries was written in 1966 when 2,000 dinosaur tracks were accidentally uncovered during excavation for a new state building in Rocky Hill. This remarkable site became Dinosaur State Park. Five hundred of the tracks are now enclosed within the Exhibit Center's geodesic dome; the remaining 1,500 are buried for preservation. The park's 200-million-year-old sandstone trackway is a Registered Natural Landmark.

The Old State House

Designed by Charles Bulfinch and built in 1796, the Old State House is the oldest state house in the nation. The building opened in May 1796. Oliver Wolcott, signer of the Declaration of Independence was the first Governor to serve here. The building was the seat of state government until 1878, when the present Capitol was opened.

Lafayette was made a citizen here, many American presidents, including Jackson, Monroe, Johnson, Ford and Bush have visited. President Carter gave the U.S.S. Nautilus to Connecticut in a ceremony at the Old State House in 1981. The trials of Cinque and the Amistad opened here in 1839. P.T. Barnum served in the legislature here, and notables such as Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Samuel Colt and Harriet Beecher Stowe visited the building. The Old State House is a registered National Landmark.



Old Newgate Prison and Copper Mine

The prison was originally a copper mine which opened in 1705. After mining operations proved unprofitable, the colony of Connecticut converted it to a prison, like its London namesake Newgate Prison.

The first prisoner, John Hinson, was committed for burglary on December 22, 1773.

He escaped 18 days later. Tories and Loyalists were held here during the Revolutionary War. In 1790 it became a state prison, the first such in America. Considered costly to run and inhumane, the prison was closed in 1827. Attempts to revive mining failed. Since the 1860s it has been mainly a tourist attraction.

In 1972 Old Newgate Prison was declared a National Historic Landmark.



Kent Furnace and the Sloane Stanley Museum

The Kent Iron Furnace, on the grounds of the Sloane-Stanley Museum in Kent, was a major part of the significant iron industry in the upper Housatonic Valley in the 19th century. It is over 30 feet tall. The blast furnace operated for nearly 70 years, from 1825 to 1892.

It took approximately 138 bushels of charcoal, 2,612 pounds of ore, and 432 pounds of limestone flux to make one ton of pig iron. Unless the water source was frozen or the water level too low in the summer, iron works were in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In 1870 it was reported in the Litchfield Enquirer that the Kent furnace produced 50 tons of pig iron in a week. The iron's grade made it especially appropriate for the production of train car wheels.



General Information

General Description

Within its borders, Connecticut has forested hills, urban skylines, shoreline beaches, white-steeple colonial churches, and historic village greens. There are classic Ivy League schools, modern expressways, great corporate offices, and small farms. Connecticut is a thriving center of business, as well as a vacation land. This New England state is situated midway between New York City and Boston.

Statehood: January 9, 1788 (5th state).

Nickname/Official Designation: "The Constitution State" was adopted by Act of the Legislature, 1959. Other nicknames: The Nutmeg State, The Provision State.

Name Origin/Indian: Quinnehtukqut -- Mohegan for "Long River Place" or "Beside the Long Tidal River."

Capitol: Hartford since 1875.

State Motto: *Qui Transtulit Sustinet* - "He Who Transplanted Still Sustains."

Population: The population of Connecticut was 3,405,565 according to the 2000 U.S. Official Census. The most recent population estimate from the Connecticut Department of Public Health is 3,409,549 as of July 1, 2000.

Cities with largest population (2000): Bridgeport 139,529, New Haven 123,626, Hartford 121,578, Stamford 117,083, Waterbury 107,271.

Area: 5,018 square miles; **Counties:** 8; **Towns:** 169; **Cities:** 21; **Boroughs:** 9.

Famous Inventors: Charles Goodyear, Elias Howe, Eli Whitney, Eli Terry

Connecticut Towns and Cities

Andover	Chester	Fairfield	Madison	North Haven	Shelton	Waterbury
Ansonia	Clinton	Farmington	Manchester	North Stonington	Sherman	Waterford
Ashford	Colchester	Franklin	Mansfield	Norwalk	Simsbury	Watertown
Avon	Colebrook	Glastonbury	Marlborough	Norwich	Somers	West Hartford
Barkhamsted	Columbia	Goshen	Meriden	Old Lyme	South Windsor	West Haven
Beacon Falls	Cornwall	Granby	Middlebury	Old Saybrook	Southbury	Westbrook
Berlin	Coventry	Greenwich	Middlefield	Orange	Southington	Weston
Bethany	Cromwell	Griswold	Middletown	Oxford	Sprague	Westport
Bethel	Danbury	Groton	Milford	Plainfield	Stafford	Wethersfield
Bethlehem	Darien	Guilford	Monroe	Plainville	Stamford	Willington
Bloomfield	Deep River	Haddam	Montville	Plymouth	Sterling	Wilton
Bolton	Derby	Hamden	Morris	Pomfret	Stonington	Winchester
Bozrah	Durham	Hampton	Naugatuck	Portland	Stratford	Windham
Branford	East Granby	Hartford	Newington	Preston	Suffield	Windsor
Bridgeport	East Haddam	Hartland	Newtown	Prospect	Thomaston	Windsor Locks
Bridgewater	East Hampton	Harwinton	New Britain	Putnam	Thompson	Wolcott
Bristol	East Hartford	Hebron	New Canaan	Redding	Tolland	Woodbridge
Brookfield	East Haven	Kent	New Fairfield	Ridgefield	Torrington	Woodbury
Brooklyn	East Lyme	Killingly	New Hartford	Rocky Hill	Trumbull	Woodstock
Burlington	East Windsor	Killingworth	New Haven	Roxbury	Union	
Canaan	Eastford	Lebanon	New London	Salem	Vernon	
Canterbury	Easton	Ledyard	New Milford	Salisbury	Voluntown	
Canton	Ellington	Lisbon	Norfolk	Scotland	Wallingford	
Chaplin	Enfield	Litchfield	North Branford	Seymour	Warren	
Cheshire	Essex	Lyme	North Canaan	Sharon	Washington	

General Information

What is a Borough?



No, that is a Burrow!



No, that is a Burro!

A borough is a smaller municipal unit within a larger city or town, that has its own identity and some local government structure. Connecticut has nine boroughs. They are as follows.

Borough	City/Town	County	Date Incorporated
Bantam	Litchfield	Litchfield	January session, 1915
Danielson	Killingly	Windham	May session, 1854
Fenwick	Old Saybrook	Middlesex	January session, 1899
Jewett City	Griswold	New London	January session, 1895
Litchfield	Litchfield	Litchfield	January session, 1879
Naugatuck	Naugatuck	New Haven	January session, 1893
Newtown	Newtown	Fairfield	May session, 1824
Stonington	Stonington	New London	May session, 1801
Woodmount	Milford	New Haven	January session, 1903

The elected leader of a borough is usually called a Warden. The selectmen are called burgesses. This does not apply to the borough of Naugatuck which has a mayor and a town hall. It is also one of the boroughs that have the same name as the town they are a part of.

So Jewett City is not a city at all, but a borough.

The concept of a borough came with our ancestors from Europe where there were boroughs in England, Germany and Scotland. Often the term borough became part of the name of a borough such as Marlborough. There is a Marlborough Connecticut, but it is not a borough.



Naugatuck Town Hall

The Land



Connecticut is New England's second smallest and southernmost state. Its 5,009 square miles (13,023 square kilometers) are bordered by New York State on the west, Rhode Island on the east, Massachusetts on the north and by Long Island sound on the south. The Connecticut shore is a popular summer resort area. Despite its size, Connecticut contains a wide variety of landscapes and cultures from the flat costal plain with small sea-side towns to rolling grassy hills with large farms to rocky hills and valleys with scattered villages.



The southerly flow of the Connecticut River divides the state roughly in half and creates two Connecticuts, as the land and cultures on either side of the river can be quite different. The coastal plain and central valley are relatively flat; they contain most of the larger cities. Other parts of the state are hilly, with the highest altitudes in the northwest corner. Hills are largely covered with hardwood forests, and about two-thirds of the state is in open land. The highest peak in Connecticut is Bear Mountain at approximately 2,316 feet, but the highest point is Connecticut is located on the southern slope of Mount Frissell at approximately 2,372 feet.

Despite New England's reputation for a rugged climate, Connecticut's weather is relatively mild. On the average, there are only 12 days a year when the temperature goes above 90 degrees, and about six days when it falls to zero or below. The growing season is fairly long, with the first killing frost generally in mid-October and the last in mid-April. This, together with moderate rainfall, provides good growing conditions. Despite Connecticut's small size, there is some variety in climate, with temperatures in the northern hills as much as 10 degrees lower than those in the central valley year-round.



Government



State government in Connecticut has three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. Voters elect six state officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney General. All have four year terms. Connecticut voters also elect two U.S. Senators and five U.S. Representatives.

The Secretary of the State keeps the state's public records and documents and is the Commissioner of Elections. The Treasurer receives all the money that belongs to the State. The Comptroller approves and pays all the State's bills. The Attorney General takes care of legal matters for the State.

The General Assembly or legislature has a Senate and a House of Representatives. Members of both houses represent districts based strictly on population. Currently, there are 36 state senators and 151 state representatives. Senators and Representatives are elected by the voters in an election held every two years.

The Judicial Department is composed of the Superior, Appellate and Supreme courts. Except for probate judges, who are elected by the voters of the town or district they serve, judges of the Superior Court are nominated by the Governor from a list given to the Governor by the Judicial Selection Commission.

Whenever the Governor names a judge to serve on any Connecticut Court, that judge must also be confirmed by the General Assembly. This means that the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate vote to approve the Governor's choice. All judges confirmed by the General Assembly serve for a term of eight years.

The Superior Court is the court where trials begin. The Superior Court has four divisions where trials are held. They are the civil, criminal, housing and family



divisions. The Appellate Court is made up of nine judges, who are also judges of the Superior Court.

They are named to the Appellate Court by the Governor and must be confirmed by the General Assembly, just like the Superior Court Judges.

The Supreme Court is made up of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. The Chief Justice and the Associate Justices are named by the Governor and must be confirmed by the General Assembly. It is the highest court in the State of Connecticut.

Connecticut has no county government. Below the state level, governing units are either cities or towns.



Connecticut's Economy

The Connecticut Yankee has long been a symbol of ingenuity and inventiveness. These qualities have been matched by production skills since the earliest days. From colonial times, Connecticut has been predominantly a manufacturing state and a world leader in industrial development

When Connecticut was still a colony, her factories were already important enough to draw angry complaints from competitors in England. Connecticut metal buttons were replacing the imported product and were providing the start of Connecticut's great brass industry.



Connecticut is often described as the "Arsenal of the Nation." It gained this reputation as early as the American Revolution. Early in the 19th century, Eli Whitney and Simeon North began making Connecticut firearms with interchangeable parts. This is generally recognized as the beginning of modern mass production.

Through the years, Connecticut industrial genius has given the world such varied inventions as vulcanized rubber, friction matches, sewing machines, steamboats, safety fuses, lollipops, cork screws, mechanical calculators, cylindrical locks and the submarine.

Today, Connecticut's manufacturing industry continues to be highly diversified. Jet aircraft engines, helicopters and nuclear submarines have given the state pre-eminence in the production of transportation equipment. Connecticut also is a leader in such highly skilled and technical fields as metalworking, electronics and plastics. This sort of creativity has made a significant contribution to Connecticut's standard of life - its living qualities. For more than 50 years these qualities have been judged to be the nation's finest. In turn, they are responsible, in large part, for the influx of major corporate offices. Connecticut is now the home of such world-wide organizations as Xerox, G.E., Uniroyal, G.T.E., Olin, Champion International, and Union Carbide.

Among its better-known corporate industries, however are its insurance companies.

Connecticut began to earn its reputation as the Insurance State more than 180 years ago. Marine insurance, the great grandfather of all modern forms of insurance, had its start in Connecticut with coverage for ships and cargoes which sailed from the state's ocean and river ports to the Caribbean. Fire insurance got its formal start in 1794; other types - life, accident, casualty, health - followed over the next century. There are 106 insurance companies based in Connecticut.

While agriculture no longer holds its once-prominent position in Connecticut's economy, farming is still important to the state. The most important crops are dairy, poultry, forest and nursery, tobacco, vegetables and fruit.



Connecticut Native American Tribes

According to the Connecticut State Library, the following Native American Tribes were living in Connecticut at the turn of the sixteenth century.

Eastern Nehantics, located along the border of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Hammononassetts, located in the Clinton and Killingworth area.

Matabesecs (or Wappingger) Confederacy, located in the Western part of Connecticut/Eastern New York.

Mohegans, found in the Thames River valley between Norwich and Uncasville. This tribe was associated with the Pequot tribe before the two tribes split in the 1630's

Narragansetts, A Rhode Island tribe which clashed with the Pequots.

Nipmunks, found in Tolland and Windham counties, they were subject, sometimes to one, sometimes to another, of the more powerful communities around them.

Paugussetts, (Golden Hill) of Stratford and Huntington, and surrounding townships lived in villages on both sides of the Housatonic River in New Haven and Fairfield counties, Language Algonquian.

Pequots, (Mashantucket) the most numerous, the most warlike, the fiercest and the bravest of all the aboriginal clans of Connecticut. Found from the Niantic River, west ... along the hills of New London County to a point ten miles east of the Paucatuc River, and North ten to twelve miles from Long Island Sound

Podunks, "river tribe" found on the East side of the Connecticut river, in East Windsor, South Windsor and East Hartford.

Quinnipiacs, extended along the shore from Milford to Madison.

Schaghticoke, located in West-Central, Litchfield County, near present day Kent.

Sepous, see Tunxis Indians.

Tunxis, located on the Farmington river 8-10 miles west of the Connecticut.

Wangunks, "river tribe" found in Wethersfield and Middletown.

Wappinger Confederacy, see Matabesec Confederacy.

Wepawaugs, Indian tribe that lived on the East bank of the Housatonic river, probably part of the Paugussett tribe.

Western Nehantics, located from the Connecticut River, eastward along the seashore, to a small stream which retains their name.



**Drawing of an Algonquian Man
Connecticut State Capitol**

Connecticut History

Connecticut History - The Colonial Era

The first Europeans to land on Connecticut shores were Dutch traders. In 1614, Adriaen Block traveled along Long Island Sound. He entered the Connecticut River, and explored it at least as far as present day Hartford. The place where he landed is still called "Adriaen's Landing" today. Leaving Long Island Sound, he charted Block Island, which is named for him, and Narragansett Bay. Block set up some colonies in Connecticut on land purchased from the Pequot Tribe and made permanent settlements. One of the first is present day Windsor.

Then came English settlers from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, exploring throughout the Connecticut Valley area. They were impressed with the beauty of the countryside and decided to stay. It was in the town of Wethersfield that they planted the first crop. In 1636, one of the most famous early Connecticut settlers, the Reverend Thomas Hooker, traveled from Massachusetts with a group of colonists. They founded the town of Hartford, which soon became an important center of government and trade. Many of the settlers bought land along the river from the Mohegan Indians. By 1637, trouble began between the settlers and the Pequot Indians. The Indians wanted to take the lands that had been purchased from the Mohegans. In that year, Captain John Mason led the colonists to victory over the Pequots.

Because they wanted to create a plan for the type of government they wanted, Thomas Hooker, John Haynes and Roger Ludlow wrote a document which has been called the first written constitution. This was the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. Many historians have said that this was the basis for the United States Constitution. It was adopted in 1639 by Freeman of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. At the same time, the first Governor, John Haynes, was chosen.



Adriaen Block's Map of Long Island Sound



The Charter Oak

By 1660, the colonists had become uneasy about their legal standing with England. The colonies were still under English rule then, but there were many disagreements about land claims. Governor John Winthrop went to England in 1662 to talk to King Charles II. He returned with a royal charter. This document was important because it gave the colony a legal basis and the approval of the King.

The colony continued to grow peacefully for the next 20 years, but more and more that the colonists were unhappy about the rule of England. They became afraid that they would lose their charter and their lands. England was far away, and the colonists wanted to decide their own government, future and way of life.

In October of 1687, the English Governor, Sir Edmund Andros, who had been appointed by King James, came to Connecticut to take away the charter and the colonists' legal rights. A large assembly was called to discuss the situation, and the charter was put on a table. Suddenly, someone put out the candles, and in the darkness the charter was taken away. Captain Wadsworth of Hartford is credited with taking the charter and placing it in a hollow spot in a large oak tree. This tree became known as the Charter Oak.

Connecticut History

Connecticut in the Revolutionary War

By 1765, many of the Connecticut colonists were unhappy with English rule, but could not vote in the English Parliament. Those people who believed that England should continue to rule the colonies were called Tories. Those people who wanted the American Colonies to govern themselves were called Whigs. Many fights broke out between these two groups. More and more people, however, began to agree with the Whigs.

In 1765 the English Parliament passed a law called the Stamp Act. This law said that the American Colonies would have to pay to have official seals, or stamps, as they were called, placed on all printed documents such as deeds, licenses or newspapers. Newspapers included the Connecticut Gazette of New Haven, the Colony's first newspaper (1755), and the Connecticut (Hartford) Courant (1764), the oldest American newspaper in continuous existence.

Because the act effected so many people and placed such a heavy tax burden on them, many people became angry. They felt that they should not have to pay a tax that they had not voted into law. Connecticut colonists said that the tax violated their charter. Because of so many protests, the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766. Still needing to raise money, the English Parliament again attempted to tax the American Colonies by passing the Townshend Act in 1767. This act placed a tax on goods sent to the American Colonies from England.

The most famous example of this was the tax on tea. In 1767, tea was as important to most people as coffee is to many people today. So, they were not happy about a higher price for their tea. For awhile some people refused to buy the tea, but that that did not last long. In 1774, the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to begin to establish the rights of the colonies. All of the colonies sent representatives. Silas Deane, Eliphalet Dyer and Roger Sherman represented Connecticut.

As soon as the news of the uprising at Lexington, Massachusetts in April of 1775 reached Connecticut, several thousand militiamen left Connecticut for Massachusetts. They were under the command of Colonel Israel Putnam from Pomfret. Soon promoted to General, it was General Putnam who said at the Battle of Bunker Hill in Boston, "Don't fire until you see the white of their eyes."

In 1776, Samuel Huntington, Roger Sherman, William Williams and Oliver Wolcott signed the Declaration of Independence for Connecticut. Most Connecticut citizens supported it, but not all. In that same year, a young Connecticut patriot, Nathan Hale, was captured by the British while on a spy mission for General Washington. Before he was executed, Nathan Hale said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." You may see the statue of Nathan Hale at the State Capitol Building.



Nathan Hale Statue in the Connecticut State Capitol



Fort Griswold

One major Revolutionary War battle was fought in Connecticut. This was at New London. On September 6, 1781, British forces under Benedict Arnold landed at New London on the banks of the Thames River. They captured Fort Griswold and burned many buildings in the town.

Perhaps Connecticut's greatest contribution to the war was the fact that it furnished many supplies to the Continental Army. To General George Washington, Connecticut was "The Provision State." Items supplied Included beef, salt, flour and gunpowder

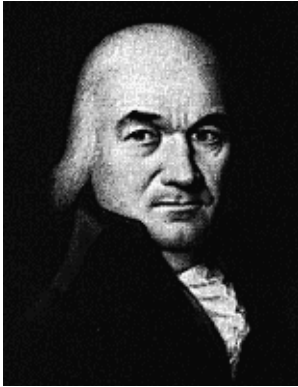
Connecticut History

The End of the Colonial Era

When Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 19th, 1781, the fighting was over. The people of Connecticut were glad to return to their peaceful way of life. Soldiers and sailors returned home, and all of the wartime laws were ended. People could farm and trade without fear. We robins were especially glad that peace had returned once more. In the Peace Treaty of Paris, signed April 30, 1783, the British agreed that the colonies were independent.

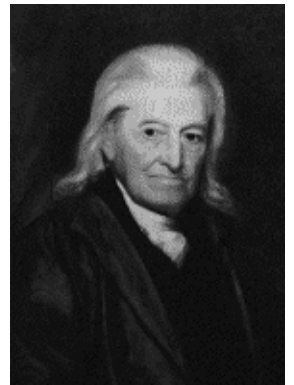
In 1787, Connecticut sent three representatives to the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention; Oliver Ellsworth, William Samuel Johnson and Roger Sherman. They made a great contribution to the new Constitution by proposing the "Connecticut Compromise." This compromise settled the issue of representation in the new congress. In the Senate all states would be represented equally. In the House of Representatives they would be represented according to the size of their populations. This compromise is still part of the United States Constitution.

On January 9, 1788, the Convention at Hartford approved the Federal Constitution by a vote of 128 to 40. Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the Constitution and to become a state in the United States of America.



Oliver Ellsworth was born on April 29, 1745, in Windsor, CT. In 1777 he became Connecticut's state attorney for Hartford County. He was chosen as one of Connecticut's representatives in the Continental Congress. When the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia in 1787 Ellsworth again represented Connecticut and took an active part in the proceedings. During debate on the Great Compromise, Ellsworth proposed that the basis of representation in the legislative branch remain by state, as under the Articles of Confederation. He also left his mark through an amendment to change the word "national" to "United States" in a resolution. Thereafter, "United States" was the title used in the convention to designate the government.

William Samuel Johnson embraced law largely by educating himself. In the Continental Congress (1785-87), he was one of the most influential and popular delegates. Playing a major role in the Constitutional Convention, he chaired the Committee of Style, which shaped the final document. He also worked for ratification in Connecticut. Johnson took part in the new government, in the U.S. Senate where he contributed to passage of the Judiciary Act of 1789. He died in Stratford in 1819 at the age of 92 and was buried at Old Episcopal Cemetery.



Roger Sherman rose from justice of the peace and county judge to an associate judge of the Connecticut Superior Court and representative in both houses of the colonial assembly. Although opposed to extremism, he promptly joined the fight against Britain. He was a longtime and influential member of the Continental Congress (1774-81 and 1783-84). He won membership on the committees that drafted the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation, as well as those concerned with Indian affairs, national finances, and military matters.

Connecticut History

Some Important Dates in Connecticut History

1799 - In his Haddam armory, Eli Whitney produces high quality, machine made muskets with standard, interchangeable parts.

1806 - Noah Webster publishes the first abbreviated edition of his dictionary of the American language. The full edition published in 1828 contained 70,000 entries and largely replaced English dictionaries.

1814 - The Hartford Convention was held at the Old State House. This meeting of Federalist leaders from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, secretly adopted seven proposed amendments to the Federal Constitution that were later accused of being treasonous.

1817 - Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet establishes a school for the deaf in West Hartford on April 15, 1817.

1828 - The Farmington Canal is opened. Running from New Haven through Farmington to the Massachusetts line, the canal operated until 1844.

1835 - The First American music school is opened in Salem, Connecticut. Oramel Whittlesey establishes Music Vale Seminary.

1839 to 1841 - The Amistad affair.

1842 - The Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford's first public museum, was established.

1848 - Slavery is abolished in Connecticut.

1877 - The first telephone exchange in the world is opened in New Haven, Connecticut.

1900 - First United States Navy Submarine, Holland, constructed by Electric Boat Company.

1938 - The 1938 hurricane produces heavy loss of life and property.

1944 - Ringling Brothers Circus tent fire in Hartford.

1955 - Great Flood - one of Connecticut's greatest natural disasters.

1957 - University of Hartford founded.

1957 - Ground broken for first building in New Haven's Oak Street redevelopment area.

1958 - 129-mile Connecticut Turnpike opened.

1959 - General Assembly votes to abolish county government (effective 1960); also to abolish local justice courts and establish district courts.

1960 - Ground broken for first building in Hartford's Front Street redevelopment area; now known as Constitution Plaza.

1961 - New state circuit court system goes into effect.

1962-75 - Approximately 104,000 Connecticut men and women serve in the armed forces during the Vietnam War era.

1964 - General Assembly creates six Congressional districts reasonably equal in population.

1965 - Constitutional Convention held; New Constitution approved by voters.

1966 - First elections held for reapportioned General Assembly under new Constitution.

1972 - Under constitutional amendment adopted in 1970, the General Assembly holds first annual session since 1886.

1974 - Ella T. Grasso, first woman elected Governor in Connecticut.

1978 - Common pleas and Juvenile Courts become part of the Superior Court.

1982 - Appellate Court created by Constitutional Amendment (Effective July 1, 1983.)

1990 - Eunice S. Groark, first woman elected lieutenant governor in Connecticut.

2001 - Reapportionment Commission creates five Congressional districts due to national population shifts identified in the 2000 census.

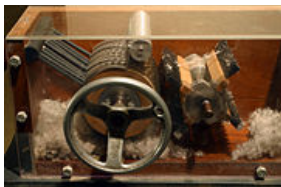
2001 - 9/11 Terrorist attacks on New York City kill 152 Connecticut citizens.

2005 - Connecticut first state to adopt civil unions for same-sex couples without being directed to do so by a court.

2006 - M. Jodi Rell becomes Connecticut's second female governor elected in her own right.

Connecticut Historical Firsts

- 1639 - first constitution adopted, establishing representative government
- 1656 - first municipal public library in America, a bequest to the "towne of New Haven"
- 1670 - first survey for the first turnpike in America, between Norwich and New London
- 1729 - first medical diploma, granted by Yale University
- 1764 - first newspaper, The Hartford Courant, published since October 29, 1764
- 1775 - first submarine
- 1783 - first dictionary, published by Noah Webster, born in West Hartford
- 1784 - first law school in America, Litchfield Law School. Graduates included John C. Calhoun, Aaron Burr, Horace Mann, Oliver Wolcott, Jr. and Noah Webster
- 1788 - first State House in America, built after the Federal Constitution ratification



- 1794 - first cotton gin, patented by Eli Whitney of New Haven
- 1803 - first town library, tax-supported and organized in Salisbury

- 1806 - first factory town in America, planned and established in Seymour
- 1808 - first movable parts mass production in use, making clocks
- 1810 - first insurance company, ITT Hartford Group, Inc. Officially opened and people were able to take insurance for the "loss of life or personal injury while journeying by railway or steamboat"
- 1819 - first industrial training school, established in Derby
- 1836 - first revolver
- 1842 - first public art museum
- 1843 - first portable typewriter
- 1844 - first use of anesthesia
- 1843 - first portable typewriter

- 1844 - first use of anesthesia
- 1846 - first sewing machine, Elias Howe procured a patent for the first practical sewing machine in 1846
- 1853 - first ice-making machine
- 1858 - first can opener
- 1861 - first Ph.D. Degree, Yale University awarded in Philosophy



- 1868 - first tape measure
- 1877 - first pay phone
- 1877 - first telephone exchange, established in Bridgeport
- 1892 - first collapsible toothpaste tube
- 1895 - first hamburger, served at Louie's Lunch in New Haven
- 1907 - first permanent public planning body in America, Hartford's Commission on the City Plan

- 1908 - first lollipop
- 1920 - first Frisbee, Yale students sailed empty pie plates from Mrs. Frisbie Pies in Bridgeport across the New Haven Green



- 1933 - first vacuum cleaner
- 1934 - first Polaroid camera
- 1939 - first FM radio station, WDRC-FM began broadcasting in Hartford
- 1939 - first helicopter, Igor Sikorsky designed the first successful helicopter in the Western Hemisphere
- 1948 - first color television
- 1949 - first ultra high frequency UHF television station to operate on a daily basis, KC2XAK in Bridgeport
- 1954 - first nuclear submarine, launched in New London
- 1982 - first artificial heart, Dr. Robert K. Jarvik, a Stamford native, invented the world's first artificial heart

Connecticut in a Box

Do you think that you can fit the State of Connecticut in a box?



Probably not, but you can fit things that represent Connecticut in a shoe box or a box about the same size (13" x 7.5" x 4.25"). You will be able to find many common items in your home, while others you may have to buy. You should be able to explain why each item is important to Connecticut. The following is a list of suggested items, but you should add to the list with your own items.

A small box of nutmeg from the grocery store - Connecticut is the Nutmeg State.

A small bottle of maple syrup - Connecticut is a major producer of maple syrup.

An insurance policy or insurance junk mail (I get one in the mail every day) - Connecticut is a major center of the insurance industry.

A picture/model of a robin - the Connecticut State Bird.

A print of the U.S. Constitution. Connecticut is the "Constitution State."

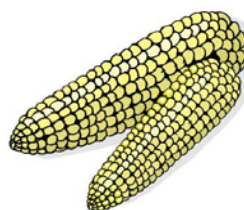
An oak leaf - The Charter Oak is the Connecticut State Tree.

If you can find a small cigar box (without the cigars of course) Connecticut grown tobacco is still used for cigar wrappers for the best cigars.

An oyster shell - State Shellfish

A watch or small clock - Connecticut was a center of watch and clock manufacturing during the industrial revolution to the present (Terry Clocks, Timex).

A toy submarine - Connecticut is the home of the Groton Submarine Base and the Nautilus Museum.



A toy ship or picture - Connecticut is the home of Mystic Seaport, an historical center of early trade and commerce.

A dried corn cob or plastic corn cob - Connecticut is a major producer of corn.

A toy airplane - Connecticut is a major center of aircraft production with United Technologies (Pratt and Whitney, Hamilton Standard and Kaman Aircraft).

A toy helicopter - Connecticut is a major center of helicopter production and research at Sikorsky Aircraft.

A small plastic whale - State Animal

A spool of thread - Connecticut was a major producer of textiles.

A silver spoon or other small silver item - Meriden was known as the Silver City of the World, producing the largest volumes of silver and silver-plated wares in the world.

A picture of the Apollo Spacesuit that was supplied by Hamilton Standard, A United Technologies Company, to NASA.

A small jar of honey - Connecticut is a major producer of honey.



Now, what can you add to the list?

Unusual Connecticut Places



The Southwick Jog - The notch in Connecticut's northern border, just above Granby, is sometimes called the "Southwick Jog". Following the Revolutionary War, in 1793, Connecticut and Massachusetts appointed Boundary Commissioners to run a straight boundary from Union, Connecticut to the New York state line. In 1797 the Commissioners recommended that a disputed 2.5 square mile tract be awarded to Massachusetts as compensation for its earlier losses of Suffield, Woodstock, Somers, and Enfield to Connecticut. However, not until 1804 did Connecticut agree to another compromise that partitioned the 2.5 mile area at Congamond Lakes with Massachusetts receiving 5/8 of the disputed parcel on the west shore and Connecticut receiving the remainder, on the east shore.

Sleeping Giant State Park - Located in Hamden, Connecticut, this park features two miles of mountaintop resembling a sleeping giant give this park its name, and make it a distinguishing feature on Connecticut's skyline.



Devil's Hopyard State Park - Located in East Haddam, this park's unusual name may come from the pothole stone formations in the principle feature of the park, Chapman Falls. To the early settlers the potholes were a great mystery that they tried to explain with references to the supernatural. They thought that the Devil has passed by the falls, accidentally getting his tail wet. This made him so mad he burned holes in the stones with his hooves.

Money Island - Money Island is one of the Thimble Islands on the Connecticut off Branford, Connecticut. The name comes from the legend that Captain Kidd buried his treasure here. Twelve acres in size, the island has a small village of seasonal homes. Other Thimble Islands include Pot Island, Horse Island, Hen Island, Little Pumpkin Island, and Frisbie Island.



Gungywamp - An archaeological site in Groton, Connecticut, Gungywamp consists of artifacts dating from 2000-770 BC, a stone circle, stone chambers and the remains of Native American and early settlers structural remains. One of the stone chambers has an opening in the West end that allows the sun to shine in upon a light stone at the opposite end at mid-afternoon on the Vernal or Autumnal Equinox. The origin of the name "Gungywamp" is uncertain, but it maybe Gaelic - "church of the people" - or Algonquin combining "all powerful (gunche) with "white" (wamp)..

Other Unusual Connecticut Names - Ayer's Gap, Bogus Hill, Bull's Bridge, Cow Pen Hill, Duck Hole, Ellithorpe's Crossing, Fog Plain, Hat Shop Hill, Lost Acers, Moosehorn, Obtuse, Paddy Hollows, Sachem's Head, Samp Mortar, Satan's Kingdom, Witch Meadow, Woodtick.

Places With Native American Names - Attawaugan, Hammonasset, Kishwaukee, Mashapaug, Natchaug, Nonnewaug, Pawcatuck, Pequabuck, Quassapaug, Schaghticoke, Umpawaug, Weekeepeemee

Create Your Own List of Unusual Connecticut Names
Use a Connecticut highway map to locate unusual Connecticut names!

Connecticut Animal Statues

Name the Turtle - A famous statue of Marquis de Lafayette (General Lafayette) was created by the American artist Paul Wayland Bartlett (1865-1925) around the year 1907. It stands at the junction of Washington Street, Lafayette Street, and Capitol Avenue, directly across from the State Capitol and the Bushnell in Hartford. Many people have seen this statue and pass by it every day. What most people have not seen is that there is a small bronze turtle just in front of the horse's left hind hoof. What is a turtle doing on a statue of Lafayette?

The Story of the Turtle - After Paul Bartlett had completed the statue of Lafayette, he waited a long time for the city to mount the statue on a pedestal. It took so long, that he became frustrated and added the small turtle to the statue to show how slowly he thought the project was going. It is told that the city got the message and the work was completed shortly afterwards. But the turtle stayed.

ConneCT Kids would like to give the turtle a name, and we are asking for your help. We would like you to email us your suggestions. We will post the suggestions on a page, and when we have enough, we will ask you to vote for your favorite. Send your turtle name suggestions to connectkids@ct.gov. Help name the turtle!

The Willimantic Frog Bridge - Also known as the Thread City Crossing, this bridge into the town of Willimantic has statues of four bullfrogs sitting on thread spools.



The town of Willimantic has given the frogs official names. They are Willy, Manny, Windy and Swifty.

These statues commemorate the city's historic place in the manufacture of cotton thread and a famous incident known as the **Windham Frog Fight of 1754**.

In 1754, Colonel Eliphalet Dyer of Windham raised a local regiment to fight in the French and Indian Wars. The regiment marched off leaving the local citizens unprotected. On a hot June night during a long dry spell, the citizens were awakened by screams and strange cries in the dark. Thinking that Indians were attacking, the men grabbed their muskets and fired into the night. Others prayed or hid believing that the end had come.

When the villagers went to investigate in the morning, they found hundreds of dead and dying bullfrogs in a local millpond that had dried up in the hot weather. They had fought over the remaining moisture creating the loud screams.

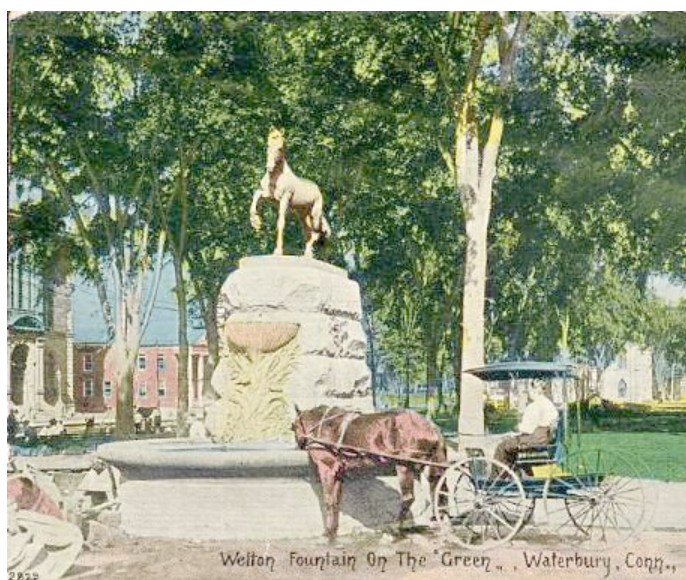
Connecticut Animal Statues

The Waterbury Horse Fountain - Caroline (Carrie) Josephine Welton was born in Waterbury on June 7, 1842, the daughter of wealthy parents, Joseph Chauncey and Jane E. Welton. She studied drawing and oil painting, but was most fond of riding her black horse Knight. They were a familiar sight on Waterbury streets. She later moved to the Rocky Mountains and became interested in mountain climbing. On a climb of Long's peak on September 23, 1884 she was overtaken by a violent snowstorm. She died of exposure and exhaustion.

In her will, she left money for the creation of a horse watering fountain with a statue of her horse Knight, even though the horse had killed her father by kicking him in the head. In spite of objections from relatives who contested the will on the grounds that Carrie was insane, the fountain with its 2,500 bronze statue of Knight was dedicated on November 10, 1888 and still stands on the east end of the Waterbury Green. The fountain was designed by Karl Gerhardt.



The Carrie Welton Horse Fountain with Knight 2008



A Vintage Photograph Showing a Horse Drinking from the Horse Fountain. Fewer Horses Need to Drink from it Today.

Collis P. Huntington State Park Animal Statues - Collis P Huntington was a railroad tycoon who completed the first transcontinental railroad. His son, Archer Huntington became a philanthropist and financier, and married Anna Vaughn Hyatt, a famous sculptor. They purchased 883 acres of land in Fairfield County in 1939, naming the estate Stanerigg, a Scottish word meaning stony ridge. The property was willed to the citizens of Connecticut in 1973. Anna Hyatt Huntington sculpted the animal figures at the park entrance.



The Huntington Wolves



The Huntington Bears

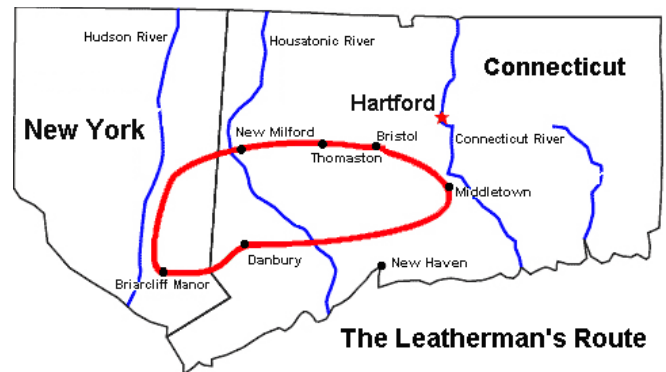
The Leatherman - Connecticut Legend



Beginning in 1862, a mysterious stranger was seen walking along a 365 mile route through Western Connecticut and Eastern New York. The Connecticut route included stops in New Milford, Thomaston, Bristol, Middletown, and Danbury. He was dressed completely in leather scraps hand-sewn together to make his clothes, hat and shoes. He spoke only in grunts and gestures, and was rarely known to communicate with people. He did prefer certain houses or businesses along his route where he would be given food. He always slept in caves or rock shelters, many of which exist today and are known as "Leatherman Caves." He was extremely punctual on his route, stopping at each regular place every 34 days. While there is no account of the Leatherman ever working or paying for his meals, he was apparently received with generosity and kindness. Written accounts from the time indicate that people looked forward to his visits, especially children. He died in March, 1889, and is buried in the Sparta Cemetery in Ossining, New York.

So who was the Leatherman? No one is certain, but the following is the most common story.

The earliest reports say that the Leatherman was named Jules Bourglay, and that he was born in Lyons, France. As a young man, he courted the daughter of a wealthy leather merchant. He was taken into the family business in anticipation of the marriage, but he is said to have made some bad business decisions which led to the financial ruin of his future father-in-law. Disgraced, penniless and perhaps in a poor mental state, he began wandering and somehow found his way to America where he continued his self-imposed penance for another thirty-one years.



**Sparta Cemetery,
Ossining New York**

**The Leatherman's Original Grave
Marker with the Name Jules
Bourglay, "The Leatherman"**



**His remains were
exhumed and reburied
at a different site in
the cemetery with a
different marker on
May 25, 2011.**

A Leatherman Cave



Connecticut Foods

I am often asked what foods are special to Connecticut, and what the early settlers ate.

There is no special food or recipe that is unique to Connecticut. As part of the New England area, Connecticut shares the foods and traditions of the other New England States. Such items as corn, squash, beans, honey, maple syrup, barley, wild rice, berries (including wild strawberries and blueberries), apples, nuts and sweet potatoes were common. In the ocean, lakes and rivers, the early settlers caught the abundant salmon, shad, cod, flounder, clams, lobsters, and trout. In the woods they hunted deer, pheasants, partridge, ducks and wild turkeys. Many of the foods, cooking methods and preservation techniques used by the settlers were given to them by the Native American Peoples in the area. Drying, smoking and salting were common methods of preserving food for the long winter months.

The settlers brought domestic animals with them including cows, goats and pigs. These supplied meat and milk.

Connecticut's food resources were so plentiful, that Connecticut was given the nickname "The Provision State" because of the abundant supplies sent to the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Corn was a staple for most common people. Breakfast usually consisted of a bowl of cornmeal mush with berries or maple syrup. Dinner was at noon (there was no lunch then) and was the biggest meal of the day. Cooking was done over wood fires in a hearth or in the open. It took many hours to prepare meals, and children had to do their part. Girls helped prepare and cook foods, while boys gathered wood, worked in the fields and tended the livestock.



Beginning in the 1700's after its invention in Holland, the Dutch Oven became the most popular cookware in Colonial America. It was efficient, versatile and portable. It played an important role in the later westward expansion.

One of the most necessary food items in Colonial America was one that we take for granted today - salt. Both people and animals need salt to live. Salt was necessary to preserve foods for the long winter months. Native American Peoples in Connecticut evaporated salt from seawater or brine pools. When England ruled the Colonies, laws restricted the making of salt by the colonists, forcing them to buy salt from England. While we think of the unpopular taxation of tea as being a cause for the rebellion, restrictions on the making of salt also contributed to the growth of dissatisfaction among the colonists. Throughout history, control of the salt supply has been a favorite method used by one group of people to control another.

One recipe that has remained unchanged from Colonial Times, and that was given to the early settlers by the Native American Peoples is Indian Pudding. It is easy to make, and uses the ingredients that were available to the settlers. As part of your Connecticut Project, you could make some for your class to give them a "Taste of Connecticut." The recipe is on the next page.

Indian Pudding Recipe

Stove Top Recipe



6 cups of milk
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
1/4 cup flour
1/2 cup molasses

3 eggs, beaten
1/3 cup of granulated sugar
1 teaspoon of cinnamon
1 teaspoon of nutmeg
Whipped cream or vanilla ice cream

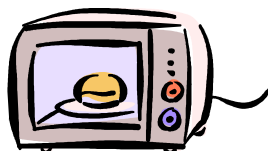


1. Scald (heat until steaming, but not boiling) the milk and butter in a large double boiler. Or heat the milk and butter for 5 or 6 minutes on high heat in the microwave, until it is boiling, then transfer it to a pot on the stove. Keep hot on medium heat.
2. Preheat oven to 250°F.
3. In a separate bowl, mix cornmeal, flour, and salt; stir in molasses. Thin the mixture with about 1/2 cup of scalded milk, a few tablespoons at a time, then gradually add the mixture back to the large pot of scalded milk. Cook, stirring until thickened.
4. Temper the eggs by slowly adding a half cup of the hot milk cornmeal mixture to the beaten eggs, whisking constantly. Add the egg mixture back in with the hot milk cornmeal mixture, stir to combine. Stir in the sugar and spices, until smooth. At this point, if the mixture is clumpy, you can run it through a blender to smooth it out. Stir in the raisins (optional). Pour into a 2 1/2 quart shallow casserole dish. Bake for 2 hours at 250°F.
5. Allow the pudding to cool about an hour to be at its best. It should be reheated to warm temperature if it has been chilled. Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

Microwave Recipe -

Ingredients

2 cups milk, divided
1/4 cup yellow cornmeal
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ginger
1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup molasses
1 tablespoon melted butter or margarine
vanilla ice-cream



Pour 1 1/2 cups milk into a 1 1/2 quart micro proof casserole. Cook on simmer or LO for 5 minutes. Combine cornmeal, sugar, salt, cinnamon, and ginger. Stir into hot milk. Cook uncovered, on simmer or LO for 4 minutes. Stir well. Beat together egg, molasses, and butter. Stir a small amount of hot milk mixture into egg mixture. Return to casserole. Stir well. Cook, uncovered, on simmer or LO for 6 minutes. Pour remaining 1/2 cup cold milk carefully over top of pudding. DO NOT STIR.

Cook, uncovered, on simmer or LO for 3 minutes, or until set. Let stand 10 to 15 minutes before serving. Serve warm, topped with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.
Yield: 4 to 6 servings

Six Connecticut Projects You Can Do



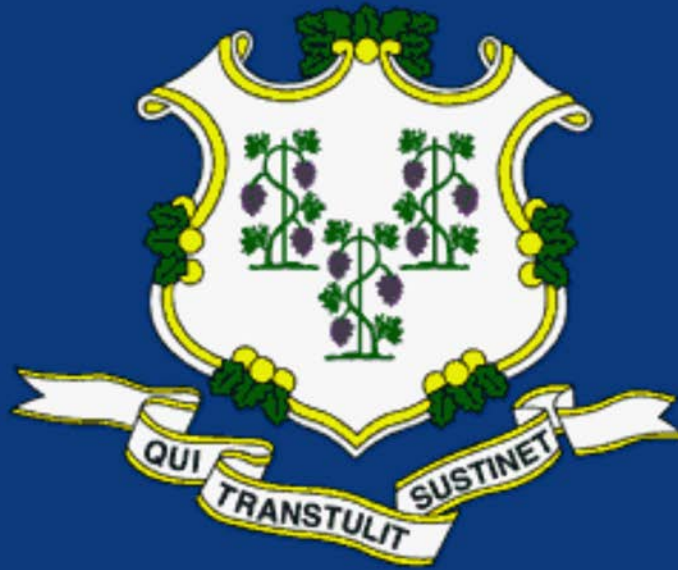
I hope you have found the material in this book helpful. I know a lot about Connecticut, but there is a lot more to know. To cover everything about Connecticut in one project would take a long time, so I have six project suggestions that you can do. Each one will help you focus on certain aspects of Connecticut history, government, land, people and culture. You can do any one of the projects, some of them, or all of them. I have included an outline map of Connecticut in the center of this book that you can unfold and use for several of the projects. I have also included pictures to cut out and use with the map and to make a Connecticut Flag. You can use books or internet searches to find information. Here are the projects.

1. **Fundamental Connecticut - Connecticut Government Past and Present** - Learn about Connecticut government from the Fundamental Orders to modern times.
2. **Connecticut Rivers - Dividing the Land, Uniting a State** - Connecticut has several major rivers including the Connecticut, the Housatonic, the Naugatuck, the Farmington, and the Thames. Trace them on the map and explain their importance to Connecticut. Can you find out about the Farmington Canal?
3. **Clocks to Corsairs - Connecticut's Manufacturing History** - Since colonial times, Connecticut has been a major manufacturing center. List Connecticut products, the companies that made them and where.
4. **The Provision State - Connecticut Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food** - Connecticut helped feed General Washington's Army. Locate centers of agriculture on the map and list types of food produced.
5. **Symbolic Connecticut - Connecticut Symbols and Nicknames** - List all of the official Connecticut State symbols and nicknames and explain why each is important to Connecticut.
6. **Who, What, Where - Famous Connecticut People, Places and Things** - List famous or interesting Connecticut people, places or things, tell why they are famous, and locate them on the map.

Ten additional project suggestions or add-ons.

1. A Connecticut crossword puzzle using names of Connecticut people, places, products and special things.
2. A Connecticut quiz with facts about the state.
3. A Connecticut collage with pictures of Connecticut emphasizing the differences between the major areas of the state.
4. A Connecticut storyboard showing how the state was settled.
5. Connecticut Contributions - how has Connecticut contributed to science, technology, the arts, politics and the American way of life?
6. Connecticut-in-Between - Connecticut is half way between the larger cities of Boston and New York. Show how the state has been influenced by these cities.
7. Fun in Connecticut - find lots of fun things to do in Connecticut.
8. Connecticut in the News - Find important or unusual Connecticut news stories and give your opinions about them.
9. Connecticut Difference - Show ways in which Connecticut differs from other states both those in the New England area and outside in terms of geography, government and culture.
10. Connecticut North, South, East and West - Compare and contrast Connecticut East of the Connecticut River with Connecticut West of the River. The compare and contrast Connecticut on the southern coast with Connecticut in the North.

Connecticut Flag and Postcard



Connecticut Flag and Postcard



Greetings from Connecticut And the Colonial Robin

From left to right: The Connecticut State Capitol,
Mystic Seaport, Lake Waramaug, Dinosaur State
Park, Milford Town Hall, Gillette Castle State Park,
Bushnell Park

PLACE
FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
HERE

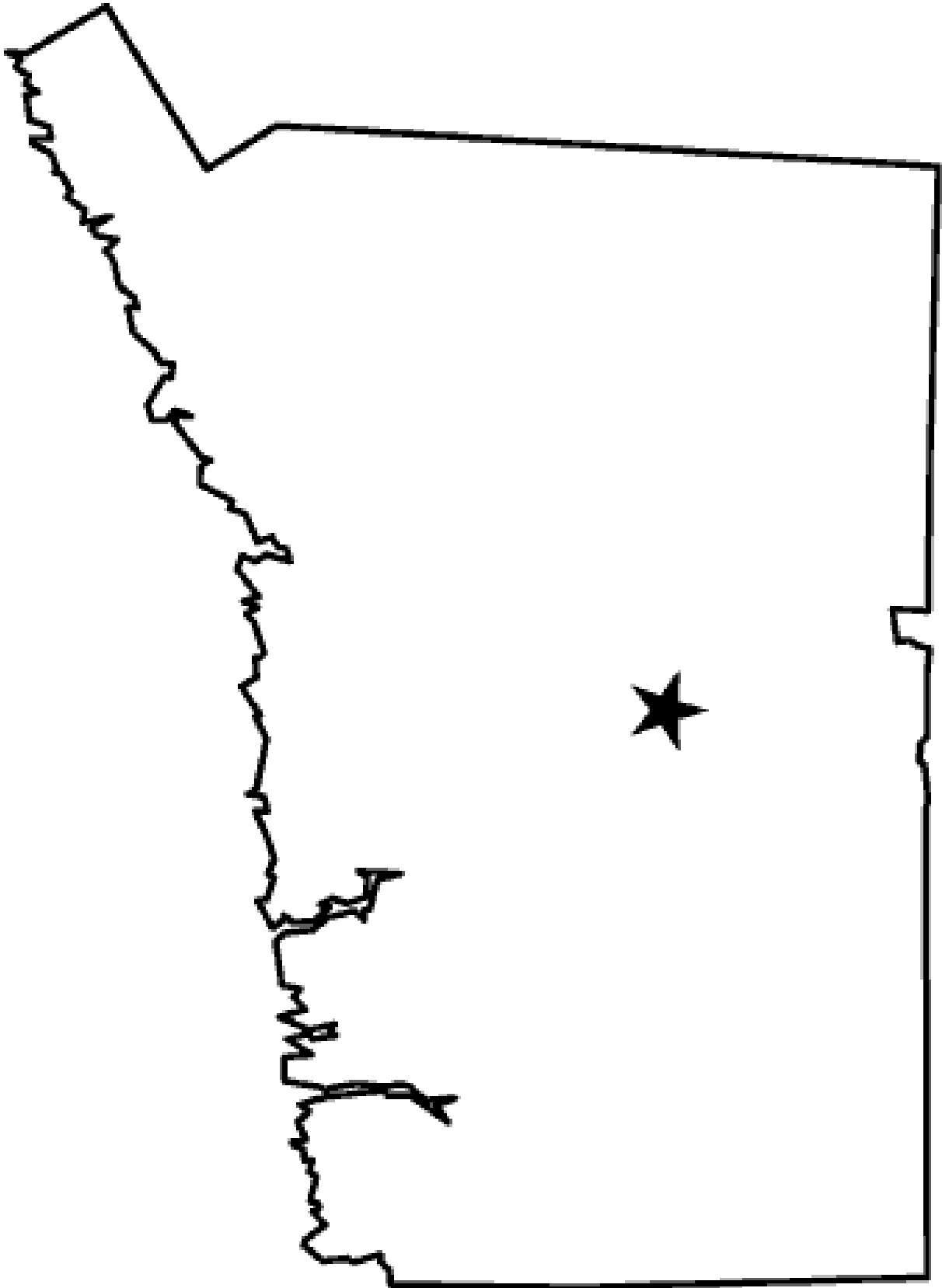
POST CARD

Address

Connect Kids Committee, 111 Phoenix Avenue, Enfield, CT 06032



Connecticut Outline Map



Connecticut Flag, Postcard and Outline Map Instructions

Make your Own Connecticut State Flag

The flag in this publication is designed to be printed on 8.5" x 11" letter-sized paper as two single-sided pieces and then glued together to make one flag. You should use heavy white paper or print on regular paper and then place a piece of heavy paper in between to make the flag stiff enough. Follow the instructions below the pictures.



Flag Side One



Flag Side Two

1. Cut around the 4 sides of both flag sides, leaving about 1/2" of white at the end as indicated by the arrows.
2. Using paper glue or spray adhesive, paste the two sides of the flag together being careful to match up the extra white space at the ends.
3. Using tape, glue or a stapler, fasten the flag to a long soda straw or thin dowel by the extra white space.
4. Your Connecticut Flag is now ready to be used in your Connecticut Project!

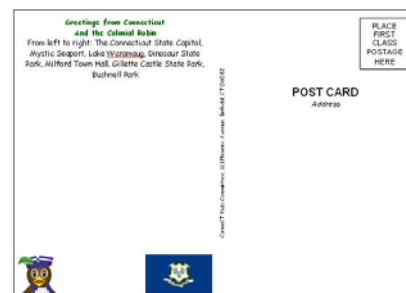
Make your Own Connecticut Postcard

The postcard in this publication is designed to be printed on 8.5" x 11" letter-sized paper as two single-sided pieces and then glued together to make one postcard. You should use heavy white paper or print on regular paper and then place a piece of heavy paper in between to make the postcard stiff enough. Follow the instructions below the pictures.

Side One



Side Two



1. Carefully cut around the edges of both sides of the postcard.
2. Using paper glue or spray adhesive, paste the two sides of the postcard together.

Connecticut Outline Map

1. Print the map on medium heavy white paper.
2. Use the map to mount pictures or locate Connecticut cities, towns, rivers, roads and special places.

